

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A steering apparatus comprising: a housing; a rack shaft connected to a traveling wheel steering mechanism, having rack teeth formed at least on part of an outer surface, and movably supported with respect to the housing; and a pinion connected to a steering wheel and having meshing engagement with the rack teeth,

wherein the rack shaft is provided with a rolling contact surface on the opposite side of the rack teeth across an axis line and a pair of surfaces extending in parallel with ~~an~~ the axis line on both sides across the rolling contact surface,

the apparatus further comprises a rolling member rolling on the rolling contact surface of the rack shaft and an urging member having contact with the pair of surfaces and applying an urging force,

wherein the urging member is attached to the housing, forms an annular configuration surrounding the entire circumference of the rack shaft, and has a contact portion having contact with the pair of surfaces to apply the urging force.

2. (original) The steering apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the contact portion of the urging member comprises a pressing portion having the shape of a cantilever.